

ranging from Oregon's convoluted tax structure, failing transportation strategy and a higher education system that failed to produce skilled workers. Brad's efforts led to the creation of ChamberPAC, a business advocacy organization.

The amazing level of support Brad was able to generate for businesses in Southern Oregon won him several well deserved and prestigious honors. In 2009, Brad earned the internationally recognized Certified Chamber Executive designation from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Brad was the only sitting chamber CEO in Oregon to hold this certification, which helped earn him a seat on the United States Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. Additionally, both the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce and the Western Association of Chamber Executives named Brad the Chamber Executive of the Year. In 2018, the Western Association elected Brad as its Chairman, the first Oregonian to lead the 94-year-old association, which consists of members from 19 Western States and three Canadian provinces.

Brad is most recognized for nearly doubling the size of The Chamber on several occasions and achieving the title of the largest Chamber of Commerce in Oregon and on the West Coast. Brad took The Chamber to even greater heights garnering the respect of the local community, the State of Oregon, and across the Western United States. Brad's focus and work has always been to benefit business owners and communities throughout Oregon and the Nation. In fact, Brad would help a struggling business owner in Jackson County whether they were a member of the Chamber or not because he knew that a thriving business would always be a positive force to the community. Even in retirement, he plans to spend the first year in an advisory role with the Chamber while he builds up his own business consultancy company.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Brad Hicks. For a man of his ability, who demonstrated superb leadership and dedication to Oregonians and Americans alike, we cannot thank him enough. Brad's achievements and reputation speak for themselves, and as an Oregonian, he has brought great credit to himself, his community, the State of Oregon, and our great Nation as an industrious leader in commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE GILROY CITY COUNCIL DURING PRIDE MONTH

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I along with Representative LOFGREN, rise to recognize the Gilroy City Council for its historic celebration of Pride Month: the Pride flag will fly for the first time at Gilroy City Hall.

Everyone in our community deserves to feel seen, heard, and loved. By displaying the Pride flag, the City of Gilroy reminds everyone in our community that they have a safe and welcoming home here.

Our country has made so much progress, but despite this, one in three LGBTQ+ Americans have faced some kind of discrimination

in the past year. Members of the LGBTQ+ community continue to face discrimination in their personal lives, in the workplace, and in their access to necessary healthcare.

The significance behind the Pride flag's display is not only to demonstrate acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in Gilroy, it's also to celebrate the contributions to progress made by so many LGBTQ+ individuals.

Everyone should be able to live their truth without fear of discrimination or violence. Members of the LGBTQ+ community deserve equal rights under the law, to be treated as full and equal citizens, and to be celebrated for their impact on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

Madam Speaker, it is our pleasure to recognize the historic nature of this occasion, and we ask our distinguished colleagues to join us in recognizing this celebration of Pride Month. We extend our personal appreciation to the Gilroy City Council for their support of Gilroy's LGBTQ+ community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 337

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson on its 100th Anniversary.

Post 337 was formed on May 16, 1921 when 15 founding members came together to sign the Legion constitution in Pulaski, Wisconsin. For 100 years, the Pulaski American Legion Post 337 has upheld the vision of legions across the country to the highest degree. Post 337 proudly carried the name of Pulaski native and World War One veteran, Private Adam Mixtacki, who was killed in action in France in 1918 at just 21 years old upon their founding. In 1950 they added the name of fellow Pulaski resident and Airforce Veteran, Sergeant Harvey Johnson. Sergeant Johnson was killed in action in Germany during World War Two when his B-26 was shot down by enemy fire.

The legion carries on the memory, service, and sacrifice of Private Mixtacki and Sergeant Johnson through their vision of strengthening America by improving the lives of veterans, the military, and their families.

Post 337 has continued to grow from their beginnings of 15 founding members 100 years ago. Post 337 now has members from Brown, Oconto, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties, who work together to teach future generations about the importance of service. The members of the Post 337 are a true inspiration and example for all Americans. The continued service and dedication that the members of Post 337 have shown to not only the Pulaski community, but to the United States of America is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Post 337, we must recognize the outstanding services that they have and continue to provide to Pulaski and surrounding communities. In addition to providing the color guard and rifle squads for local ceremonies, Post 337 enjoys supporting the Pulaski High School and

other organizations in countless ways. Post 337 sponsors sporting events, band trips, Badger Boys State, Youth Government day, offers scholarships and ceremonies, all of which have provided countless opportunities for members of the Pulaski community.

Post 337 has been a voice for the men and women who have served our country. At Post 337 every day they put country before self, just as they did the day they enlisted. American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Pulaski American Legion Post 337 Mixtacki-Johnson as they come together to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Ranking Member LUCAS, Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman STEVENS and Ranking Member WALTZ, and numerous other colleagues in introducing the Surface Transportation Research & Development Act of 2021.

Every day, Americans depend on our outdated transportation infrastructure to access essential goods, to connect with friends and family, and to move their products across the country. I applaud President Biden for his ambitious plans to update the nation's transportation systems. I am still hopeful that Congress can come to bipartisan agreement on infrastructure. In any such agreement, we must not lose sight of the critical role of research and development in our transportation future. We must be dedicated to making significant investments in R&D, in partnership with local and state governments and the many non-government stakeholders, to successfully develop the technologies and systems that will make transportation safer, more equitable, more efficient, and more sustainable.

The Surface Transportation Research & Development Act of 2021 authorizes the Department of Transportation's (DOT) surface transportation research, development, and demonstration programs through fiscal year 2027. The legislation supports long-term, high-risk research across all modes of surface transportation. It increases the funding available to all tiers of the University Transportation Centers program and updates the UTC program to better tackle complex crosscutting transportation challenges, like cybersecurity and sustainability.

The bill also supports research to ensure our entire transportation infrastructure remains resilient to natural disasters, extreme weather, and climate change impacts. By creating resilient transportation infrastructure centers of excellence, the bill would support the development of new materials, maintenance standards, and workforce development to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The bill also reauthorizes the Road Weather Centers of Excellence, which were last funded in 2009.